

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, YO

SUBJ: LEGAL ACTION AGAINST ROMAN CATHOLIC PUBLICATION

REF: BELGRADE 4630

1. SUMMARY: LEGAL ACTION IS REPORTED IN PROGRESS AGAINST EDITORIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES OF LJUBLJANA WEEKLY DRUZINA, ORGAN OF ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LJUBLJANA. ACTION SEEMS PART OF A SEASONAL UPTURN IN COMMUNIST PARTY ATTENTION TO CATHOLIC CHURCH IN SLOVENIA. A VATICAN REPRESENTATIVE IN BELGRADE DOWNPLAYED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MOVE. END SUMMARY

2. BORBA REPORTED SEPT 17 THAT OFFICIAL INSPECTION OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES OF DRUZINA FOUND "A LARGE NUMBER OF IRREGULARITIES AND SHORTCOMINGS IN THE ACTIVITIES AND OPERATIONS OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD AND MANAGEMENT OF THE PAPER". SIMILAR "IRREGULARITIES" WERE ALSO REPORTED AFTER INSPECTION OF ANOTHER CHURCH PUBLICATION OGNISCE, BASED IN ROMAN CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATION OF KOPER.

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3. ALSO REPORTED FOUND AND SEIZED DURING INSPECTION OF

DRUZINA OFFICES WAS "A CONSIDERABLE QUANTITY OF HOSTILE EMIGRE LITERATURE". SEPARATE CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS HAVE BEEN INSTITUTED AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR "IMPORTATION, CONCEALING, AND ILLEGAL USE OF EMIGRE MATERIAL", BORBA ARTICLE STATED.

4. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL OF APOSTOLIC DELEGATION IN BELGRADE, "LITERATURE" PROBABLY REFERS TO NON-POLITICAL CORRESPONDENCE FROM A FATHER IGNATZ (NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED), HEAD OF A LONDON ORGANIZATION OF CATHOLIC CLERGY WORKING AMONG EMIGRE SLOVENIANS. IGNATZ HIMSELF LEFT SLOVENIA BEFORE COMMUNIST TAKEOVER BUT IS OF EXCLUSIVELY RELIGIOUS ORIENTATION AND IS NOT INVOLVED IN ANTI-TITO ACTIVITIES, THE OFFICIAL ASSERTED.

5. OFFICIAL DOWNPLAYED SIGNIFICANCE OF ATTACKS ON DRUZINA, NOTING MORE OR LESS CONTINUOUS STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN SLOVENIAN CATHOLICS AND COMMUNISTS WHO NONETHELESS SUCCEED IN LIVING TOGETHER. HE MADE CLEAR HIS BELIEF THAT STRAINT RELATIONS WILL CONTINUE WITH PERIODIC FLUCTUATIONS AS IN THE PAST. CATHOLIC SIDE SEES NO SERIOUS THREAT TO CHURCH OPERATIONS FROM COMMUNIST PARTY OR GOVERNMENT.

6. DRUZINA AND OGNISCE CASES ARE MOST SERIOUS ACTIONS AGAINST CHURCH IN RECENTLY REVIVED ANTI-CLERICAL CAMPAIGN IN SLOVENIA.
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